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26 November 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Hill Staffers on Soviet Space
Activities

1. On 26 November 1984, Marcia Smith of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and Radford Byerly of the House Science and Technology Committee were briefed on recent Soviet space activities. The briefers from the Space Systems Division of the Office of Scientific and Weapons Research (OSWR) were [redacted]

[redacted] The briefing took place in Room 1F81 from 1000 to 1110. [redacted]

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2. The briefing focused on two areas: the significance of COSMOS satellites 1603 and 1552 and the purpose of five Soviet EVAs (extra-vehicular activities) in 1984. The OSWR briefers discussed the various possible purposes behind the Soviet COSMOS launches and indicated deficiencies in factual information that make it difficult to determine the true scientific intent, including that of ELINT collection. The possible ASAT implication of COSMOS 1603 was also considered. [redacted]

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3. With regard to the EVAs, [redacted] explained the Soviet effort in space to repair fuel valves on a broken propulsion system of a functioning satellite. He described it as a difficult technical task that was apparently concluded successfully. [redacted]

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4. ^{UNCODED} Smith expressed appreciation for the briefing and provided the briefers with two recent CRS publications on Soviet space programs. There are no follow-up requests. [redacted]

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